

ADVANCING THE MORMON FRONTIER

The Life And Times  
of

JOSEPH STACY MURDOCK

Pioneer, Colonizer, Peacemaker

By

George A. Thompson



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places for his entire family, the entire plot then valued at \$5! Joseph and all of his wives, except Eunice who is buried at American Fork, and many of his children are now buried there. At the request of Bishop Abrahm Hatch, Dave built the first fence around the cemetery during the early 1870's. All of the graves there have markers bearing the usual name and pertinent dates, all except one, for a small red sandstone monument has only the letters T T on it. The story of how that small stone came to be there is one of faith and friendship between Joseph Murdock and his Lamanite brothers.

One day a strangely silent line of Indian riders came down out of the mountains and made their way to Joseph's home. Except for a low wailing among the women there was hardly a sound from them. As the riders approached, Joseph recognized Chief Tabby in the lead, and in his arms was the body of a young boy. After a subdued greeting Chief Tabby told Joseph that the body was that of his son, who had been killed in an accident while hunting. The Chief knew that Joseph was the religious leader among his people, so he asked that Joseph bury his son in the custom of the Mormons. With a feeling of great sorrow for his friend, Joseph conducted a Christian funeral service and had Tom Tabby buried under a beautiful pine which had been planted several years before by John H. Murdock.

When the final prayer was complete, Chief Tabby said, "My son has been buried in the white man's custom, now he will be honored in the Indian fashion." A rick of cedar logs was then laid up on the new grave and the boy's favorite pony was led up to it, where its throat was cut and the animal laid on the logs which were set afire.

